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**Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development  
Animal Health and Food Control Department**

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**HUNGARY**

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**Mr. Dan J. Sheesley  
Minister-Counsellor, Regional Director  
USDA-APHIS-IS  
US Mission to the EU  
Brussels, Belgium  
Fax: 32 2 511 0918**

**Dear Mr. Sheesley,**

Referring to your letter about the site visit for Hungary's request regionalization for Classical Swine Fever I would like to inform you as follows.

According to the updated information from your Embassy in Budapest we are disposed to receive your delegation on the week of November 8 and November 12. Our colleagues in the Central Veterinary Institute are also ready to meet your laboratory expert team. Regarding the technical details of your visit we are in close contact with your Embassy in Budapest.

Finally for your kind information I have attached the answers your questions regarding the visit of Central Veterinary Institute.

**Yours sincerely,**

**(Dr. Tibor Bálint)  
Chief Veterinary Officer**

## ***Hungarian answers to the questions regarding the visit of Central Veterinary Institute in Budapest***

### ***1. What is the involvement of the laboratory in conducting diagnostic work on CSF ?***

In Hungary, the Central Veterinary Institute ( CVI ) is responsible for the laboratory diagnosis of CSF. This activity includes both the gross- and histopathological investigations and the antigen/virus detection of CSF. Practically it means that all the activities on diagnosis of CSF belongs to this Institute. Besides, confirmation of positive or doubtful results of serological investigations carried out in local Institutes is also the task of CVI.

Inside the Institute four departments are involved in this activity, the departments of Pathology, Histopathology, Immunology and the Virology.

### ***2. What is the laboratory mission, organization and staff in charge of CSF diagnosis ?***

The CVI is the dedicated reference laboratory for CSF diagnosis in Hungary.

The four departments work in close collaboration.

Cadavers or organs of CSF suspected pigs are sent to the pathology, where after necropsy samples are sent to the Department of Histopathology and the Department of Virology. In parallel, in some cases blood samples are also sent for serological and virological investigations from the herd in question.

Inconclusive serological results obtained by ELISA test in Immunology are further tested by VN test in the Virology using different CSF, BVD and recently BD virus strains.

Trained staff including veterinaries and technicians are involved in CSF diagnosis. In the Department of Virology certain processes of CSF diagnostic work are carried out in dedicated laboratories. All the activities with live CSF virus are carried out in Biological Safety Cabinets. According to the Regulation of Accreditation, in the Department of Virology every six month all the methods used in the diagnosis of CSF are verified by testing mock samples.

### ***3. Time for laboratory tour***

Depending on the number of persons in the visiting group and the information what would you like to know the visit will take circa 3 – 4 hours.

### ***4. Contact person for the laboratory visit***

Dr. Vilmos Pálfi, head of Virology.